

a 1-year crisis. It expanded Medicaid for non-Zika-related health care.

Why would we dilute Zika-related emergency funding with non-Zika-related health care?

It proposed construction of capital properties on leased lands with no recapture provision. That was the President's plan.

The Senate reached a bipartisan compromise of \$1.1 billion. The House had its own plan. And through the leadership of the Appropriations Committee chairman, who traveled to study this issue, money has continued to flow, but we know that money will end.

Mr. Speaker, people are scared. During the 7 weeks of August recess that we were gone, cases of Zika rose from 4,000 to, by some estimates, over 16,000 in the country, including a new non-travel-related case in Pinellas County, Florida, my home, my community.

There are roughly a million people in that county who are scared, who have fear. In that fear, they are demanding action. And they are seeing inaction. And in that inaction, they are angry. Angry. And they should be.

It is now our job to try to explain to the American people why we know better. It is our job to respond to the fear and the anxiety and the anger of a population concerned about a pending public health crisis concerned about mosquitoes.

You see, I brought these mosquitoes here today to convey that fear and anxiety of millions of Americans and Floridians.

Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, the fear and anxiety in this Chamber if these 100 mosquitoes were outside this jar, not inside this jar?

Members of Congress would run down the halls to the physician's office to be tested. They would spray themselves before coming down here.

This is the fear of Floridians right here. It is not good enough to work on a compromise for months and months and months with no solution. The time for the politics of Zika is over. The politics of Zika are garbage right now. The fact that candidates are going to spend money on commercials about Zika instead of responding together in a bipartisan, bicameral way in a divided government to a public health crisis that Americans understand, we are wasting time. That is why I am joined by these mosquitoes today.

FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN U.S. ELECTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern with a pattern of foreign interference in U.S. elections and the need to confront Russian aggression and interference in all of its malicious forms.

Over the past several months, we have seen a clear pattern of cyberattacks and leaks designed to tar-

get our electoral institutions, including the DNC, DCCC, and our State election agencies, and to discredit the example of our democracy around the world. Evidence collected by private security firms indicates that these attacks are part of a Russian intelligence operation, a campaign of propaganda and disinformation known as active measures.

Sowing distrust and chaos in U.S. elections by a foreign adversary should concern Americans of all parties. Along with Senator FEINSTEIN, I have written to the President to urge that he make a public attribution of these attacks. If a hostile foreign power is attempting to disrupt or influence our elections, the American people have a right to know it. I also urge the GOP to refrain from using hacked documents, which can be easily doctored or seeded with false information. An attack on our election system is an attack on our democracy, and all Americans must stand against it.

It is time we acknowledge the hard truth that Russia poses a significant threat not only to the United States, but to freedom-loving people all over the world. It has invaded its neighbors and attempted to remake the map of Europe through the use of force. It has interfered in the elections of its neighbors. Now it is attempting to interfere in our own elections.

The GOP nominee sees nothing wrong with Russian behavior. He admires Putin, belittles NATO, expresses recognition for the illegal annexation of Crimea, and also expresses a positive receptivity to the idea of repealing sanctions on Russia for its illegal annexation of part of the land of its neighbor. He invites Russia to illegally hack his opponent.

This is dangerous. We are now engaged in a high stakes battle of ideas around the world. The United States, as always, is the beacon of democracy; and Russia, the champion of a creeping authoritarianism that is spreading its destructive influences in the Caucasus, Eastern Europe, and the West.

It is now an iron curtain descending across the continent by the slow smothering of freedoms the world holds dear: the right to choose one's own representatives, the right to speak as we choose, the right to associate with like mind and intent, and what has been described as the most precious right of all, the right to simply be left alone.

All of these universal human rights are under assault by a newly aggressive and belligerent Kremlin. We need a Commander in Chief who will resist this assault, not endorse; who will confront Russian aggression, not ratify it; who has the experience, judgment, and fitness to meet this and other grave challenges facing the United States of America.

□ 1030

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF GEORGE KOEHL III

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and dedicated service of George Koehl III. On August 28 of this year, the Midland community celebrated his life and service with Sunday services and a memorial service on Saturday afternoon, August 27.

George was born and reared in Midland, Texas, to Maggie and George Koehl, Jr., on August 19, 1954, and he went to meet his Lord on his birthday, August 19, 2016. He graduated from Midland High School in 1972, and later received a bachelor's degree in church music and a master's degree in music theory and composition from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. While studying at Hardin-Simmons, George met the love of his life, DiAnn Schmidt. The two married and had four children and five grandsons.

After completing his degrees from Hardin-Simmons University, George answered God's call to service and began his career in ministry. Over the course of the next 16 years, George served as a youth and music minister for multiple congregations throughout Texas. In August of 1993, God called George back to his hometown to serve at the First Baptist Church of Midland, where he labored and worked for 23 years.

I was privileged to attend First Baptist Church throughout George's entire tenure. Under his leadership, the music ministry excelled and touched many lives. The Passion Plays at Easter and the Christmas programs he directed were first-class productions that were enjoyed by capacity audiences whose lives were blessed.

I watched George and DiAnn walk a path that I am not unfamiliar with in the battle of cancer. George battled his illness with grace and dignity and courage and a palpable faith in Jesus Christ. All who knew him were inspired by his dogged and iron-willed determination to not let cancer rob him of the service to Christ's kingdom. DiAnn set the bar for how spouses should support each other in good times and hard times, all the while battling cancer herself.

During George's memorial service on August 27, 2016, his children blessed us all in reaffirming their faith in a loving and sovereign God. While their prayers for their dad's healing on Earth were not answered, they acknowledged that God had healed their dad for all eternity.

Throughout his career, he consistently placed the needs of others ahead of his own, and he did so with the utmost integrity and devotion. The many qualities George exhibited serve as a shining example of how each of us should serve the Lord.

George lived a life that blessed everyone that he met and made every community he lived in a much better place. The City of Midland declared August 28 as George Koehl III Day. He is greatly missed, but his legacy will be carried on by the many people whose lives he has touched by his living example.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 2001 AUMF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to really challenge my colleagues to restore Congress' constitutional oversight on matters of war and peace.

Next Wednesday, September 14, will mark the 15th year since Congress passed an open-ended blank check for endless war. This authorization surrendered our constitutional authority to the executive branch.

We continue to mourn the loss and cherish the memories of those killed in these attacks and continue to support and help those who were injured and whose lives were changed forever.

Now, just 3 days after the horrific terrorist attacks on 9/11, this House rushed to pass a 60-word authorization, with little debate, that has been used to wage endless war around the globe. In the 15 years since its passage, this authorization, designed to punish the perpetrators of the brutal and deadly attacks on September 11, has allowed endless war to rage out of control.

A recent report from the Congressional Research Service shows that this authorization has been used more than 37 times in 14 countries to justify military action, and this report only looked at unclassified military actions. How many others have been authorized that the American people don't know about?

The American people and Congress deserve to know what is being done in their name. Sadly, Congress has been missing in action.

It is unacceptable that our brave servicemen and -women are facing snipers and mortar rounds, but Congress can't even muster the courage to debate the war that we are asking them to now continue to fight. It is just plain wrong.

Mr. Speaker, we have a constitutional and moral duty to debate on this war and any war. So why have you not scheduled a debate on this vital issue that affects our national security?

I have asked, the President has asked, members of your own caucus, Mr. Speaker, have asked, even members of our military forces have asked, and still you have not scheduled a debate or vote. What is the hold up?

During the amendment debate surrounding this year's National Defense Authorization Act, we got a few moments to discuss this issue. We were allotted 10 minutes, the same amount of time allotted to debate what brand of sneakers should be available to our

servicemembers. If these issues get 10 minutes of debate, one would think that our national security and the Constitution deserve more than a rushed amendment debate allotted.

Now, my colleagues and I might disagree on what specifics of an authorization should look like; and that is why we need this debate, so Members understand all of the options, the costs, and the consequences and we can advance policies that protect the Constitution and ensure our national security. The American people deserve more than a Congress that is missing in action.

In February of last year, President Obama sent a draft authorization to Congress. Mr. Speaker, it has sat on your desk ever since, with no action, no hearings, no formal debate, and not one vote.

While Congress has been missing in action, more bombs have fallen, more American servicemembers have been put in harm's way, and, yes, we have poured more than \$1.7 trillion into war-making.

Right now, any President can unilaterally wage war under the outdated 2001 authorization. The last four Presidents have bombed the Middle East. Will this Congress allow a fifth President the same unlimited power to wage unchecked war? We can't and we shouldn't. It is past time for this debate.

Now, in 2001, when I opposed this authorization, I challenged my colleagues with the words of the Reverend Nathan Baxter, the dean of the National Cathedral. He said:

Let us hope that we may not, through our actions, become the evil that we deplore.

Fifteen years later, we, this Congress, have attacked our Constitution, the balance of power, and the voice of the American people on matters of war and peace. We, yes, have surrendered the Constitution and the voice of the American people. We have ignored the advice of our Founders and have divested our Nation's war-making power from Congress, which, yes, is the voice of the American people.

So it is past time to stop this lawlessness. It is past time to restore the Constitution. It is past time for us, as Members of Congress, to live up to our responsibility we were elected to fulfill. It is past time that we do our job and repeal the blank check for endless war and have a debate and a vote on a new authorization for this new war footing that this country has embarked upon.

RECOGNIZING 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRI-TOWN FIRE COMPANY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 70th anniversary of the Tri-Town Fire Company in Potter County, located in Ulysses, Pennsylvania, with-

in the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District.

The company was founded in 1946, and currently serves Ulysses Borough, Northern Ulysses Township, Southern Bingham Township, Northern Hector Township, and Eastern Allegheny Township. Under the Tioga/Potter County Mutual Aid Plan, they also respond on the first alarm to certain calls in Harrison, Pike, Genesee, and Sweden Townships.

Although the fire company is located in a very rural area, they protect a large and vital part of America's national infrastructure, including the Northern Potter County natural gas storage field, compressor stations, transfer stations, pipelines, and wells.

The station is also responsible for protecting nearly 35,000 acres of Pennsylvania forestland, which is something of high importance to me as chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.

Mr. Speaker, as a volunteer firefighter myself, I have the deepest respect for the men and women who step forward to help their communities, to help their neighbors, putting their lives on the line and asking for nothing in return.

I wish the men and women of the Tri-Town Fire Company the best of luck in the future.

HONORING SWEDEN VALLEY MANOR

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the efforts at Sweden Valley Manor, a nursing home in Coudersport, Potter County, serving people in that county, along with McKean, Tioga, and Cameron Counties.

In particular, I want to commend the efforts of local master gardener Bonnie Wood, who has worked over the course of the past 5 years to create what are now called "Enabling Gardens" at the facility.

As a former licensed nursing home administrator, the opportunity to visit Sweden Valley and, specifically, to visit these healing gardens—what a resource this is for the men and women and the individuals who live and work within that facility.

The gardens are designed so that residents can exercise their green thumbs. All the planters that Bonnie built are wheelchair-height, and a lazy Susan actually allows for the planters to rotate for maximum accessibility no matter what the physical mobility or orthopedic issues that an individual may be experiencing.

She has cultivated relationships with corporate sponsors, volunteers, and youth groups from across the region, and has also welcomed students involved in FFA and 4-H to work with Sweden Valley Manor's residents. Bonnie has educated staff and residents on how to take care of plants and where particular plants should be placed in a garden, dedicating her own time to get plants and vegetables started on their growth at the home.